

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling an external device, comprising the steps of:
5 sending a control request from a terminal to a telecommunications network;
converting the request into a control code; and
sending the control code from the telecommunications network to the external
device.

10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is a mobile wireless
terminal.

15 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the control request is sent from the
terminal to the telecommunications network using a text messaging service.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the control code is sent from the
telecommunications network to the external device using a text messaging service.

20 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the external device is associated with or
forms part of the terminal.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the terminal is coupled to the external
device via a local wireless link.

25 7. A method according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the control code is delivered to the
external device via said terminal.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the external device is remote from the
terminal.

30 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the external device comprises a
telecommunications receiver.

10. A method according to claim 3, wherein the external device comprises a telecommunications receiver and the telecommunications receiver receives a text message containing said control code.

5 11. A method according to claim 1, in which the step of sending a control request to the telecommunications network comprises calling a service telephone number.

10 12. A method according to claim 1, in which the telecommunications network interacts with the terminal to select one of a plurality of predetermined control codes for sending to the external device.

15 13. A method according to 12, in which the interaction is at least partly via a speech channel.

20 14. A method according to claim 1, in which, in response to receipt of the control code, the external device sends a response comprising at least part of a text message to the telecommunications network.

16. A telecommunications network for performing a method as claimed in claim 1.

25 17. A telecommunications network comprising means for converting a control request from a terminal to a control code and means for sending the control code to an external device for controlling the external device.

30 18. A network according to claim 17, in which the control request includes an identifier identifying the terminal.

19. A network according to claim 18, in which the sending means is arranged to send the control code to a destination determined by the identifier.

20. A network according to claim 17, in which the control code is predetermined and the sending means is arranged to send the control code in response to receipt of the service number.

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21. A network according to claim 17, comprising means for interacting with the terminal to select one of a plurality of predetermined control codes for sending to the external device.

10 22. A network according to claim 21, in which the interacting means is arranged to interact with the terminal at least partly via a speech channel.

23. A network according to claim 16 or 17, comprising a computer.

15 24. A program for controlling a computer of a network as claimed in claim 23 to perform a method as claimed in claim 1.

25. A medium containing a program as claimed in claim 24.

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